District Policy on Asthma Education

WHEREAS asthma has a severe impact on schools, specifically:

- An estimated 27.6 million Americans have been diagnosed with asthma.¹
- An estimated 8.9 million Americans under age 18 have been diagnosed with asthma at some point in their lives.²
- Asthma accounts for 14 million lost school days annually and is the leading cause of school absenteeism due to chronic conditions.³
- Asthma accounts for one in six of all pediatric emergency visits in the United States.⁴
- Asthma episodes can happen anytime and can be life-threatening, requiring emergency response by staff.

AND

WHEREAS, asthma can be self-managed and improved by asthma education; and

WHEREAS, all school personnel must be prepared to support or administer emergency response to an asthma episode by a student or staff member, and must be trained to do so;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the ____________________________ (district name) shall require that annual asthma education will be mandatory for all students, faculty and staff.

² National Center for Health Statistics. Raw Data from the National Health Interview Survey. US, 1997-2000. (Analysis by the American Lung Association Epidemiology and Statistics Unit. Using SPSS and SUDAAN software).